

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An oral-delivery composition for use in treating HCV in a HCV-infected patient comprising ovine IFN- $\tau$ , in a dosage effective to stimulate bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase relative to bloodstream levels of 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase prior to treatment.

2. (Currently Amended) The oral-delivery composition of claim 1, which ~~further~~ comprises an oral-delivery vehicle containing IFN- $\tau$ , wherein said oral-delivery vehicle is effective to release the IFN- $\tau$  in active form in the digestive tract.

3. (Original) The composition of claim 2, wherein the vehicle is effective to release ovine IFN- $\tau$  in the stomach or intestines.

$\beta 1$  4. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1 wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is between  $10^8 - 10^{10}$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

5. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is greater than about  $1 \times 10^8$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is greater than about  $2 \times 10^8$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is greater than about  $4 \times 10^8$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

8. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is greater than about  $1 \times 10^9$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

9. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is greater than about  $4 \times 10^9$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is greater than about  $7 \times 10^9$  ~~Units/day~~ Units.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the dosage of ovine IFN- $\tau$  is formulated to avoid ~~avoids~~ the *tunica mucosa oris*.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of HCV comprising:

ovine IFN- $\tau$  as an effective ingredient, wherein said composition is formulated to avoid ~~avoids~~ the absorption of ovine IFN- $\tau$  through the *tunica mucosa oris*.

14. (Original) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of hepatitis caused by HCV comprising ovine IFN- $\tau$  as an effective ingredient.

15. (Original) A 2', 5'-oligoadenylate synthetase activity inducer in animals other than sheep comprising ovine IFN- $\tau$ .

16-17. (Cancelled)